for enhancing the relocation/rehabilitation package for villages in the core areas of tiger reserves, apart from developing related norms, based on the report of a professional agency mandated with the task.

Debate on climate change

1825. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the one-day debate on climate change, with more than 150 nations participating to prepare the ground for launching negotiations on an agreement to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the international accord that limits the emissions of greenhouse gases;

(b) if so, the main decisions taken in the meeting;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to prepare for climate change effects; and

(d) if so, the help and assistance being sought from UN in meeting the climate change effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A day long high-level event "The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change" was convened on 24 September 2007 by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Indian delegation was led by Shri. P. Chidambaram, Hon'ble Finance Minister who informed the world leaders that India's per capita consumption of energy and emission of CO_2 are amongst the lowest in the world. He also highlighted the efforts being made by India supportive of sustainable and clean development. It was also mentioned that Climate Change should be dealt based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and requirement of any action has to be commensurate to the respective capabilities. It was also emphasized that the only forum where the issue of climate change can be decided upon is the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A need was also felt to strengthen the Clean Development Mechanism of Kyoto Protocol. The world leaders also hoped that intense negotiations would be held in the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC, at Bali, Indonesia, for a post 2012 agreement.

(c) to (d) India is engaged in the International Climate Change Regime, including the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, as also various partnership with other countries under the UNFCCC. India has been pressing hard that as per the requirements of Kyoto Protocol the Annex-I developed countries should take deeper and longer commitments for the second phase of Kyoto Protocol. Further, India is actively participating in the Climate Change dialogue and at the Adhoc Working Group discussions coordinated by the UNFCCC Secretariat, In these negotiations, India has been pressing that 'Adaptation Fund' under the Kyoto Protocol should be operationalised at the earliest. While India does not have any Green House Gases abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programmes help mitigate climate change. Besides, India spends every year over 2 per cent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content. The Government has also set up "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" to study the impacts of anthropgenic climate change on India, and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future. Futher, a 'Council on Climate Change', chaired by Prime Minister, has also been set up. The focus of the Council is to evolve a coordinated response to issues

relating to climate change at the national level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adapation and mitigation of climate change.

Socio economic areas of global warming

1826. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that global warming is set to reverse decades of social and economic progress across Asia, home to over 60 per cent of the world's population as revealed in a new report—Up in Smoke? Asia and the Pacific;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government;

(c) in what socio-economic areas global warming is going to affect the nation and to what extent;

(d) whether our ecosystems such as river-sheds, mangroves coastal zones, forests and grasslands are already overburdened by environmental pressure from commercialization, excessive resources use and indiscriminate dumping of industrial and agricultural waste; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the implications of Climate Change, which is one of the most serious environmental concerns and threat to mankind. India is also not immune to impact of global warming and Climate Change. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the surface air temperature over the Indian subcontinent shows a slightly warming trend by about 0.4°C during the past 100 years. This warming trend is however not uniform either in time or space. Some regions do not exhibit as much warming trends as the others, and some regions of the country show lesser warming trend. However, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 has projected a warming of 0.2°C per decade of the earth's atmoshphere for a range of Special Report Emission Scenarios. India's large population depends on climate-senstitive sectors like agriculture and forestry for livelihoods. Any adverse impact on water availability due to recession of glaciers, decrease in rainfall and increased flooding in certain pockets would threaten food security, cause die back of natural ecosystems including species that sustain the livelihood of rural households, and adversely impact the coastal system due to sea level rise and increased frequency of extreme events. Apart from above, other system such as habitats, health, energy demand, and infrastructure investments would be adversely affected.

(e) India is a Party to both The United Nations Framework Covention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and is actively participating in Climate Change discussions. India has taken several measures to mitigate Climate Change by encouraging renewable source of energy, energy efficiency, afforestation programmes and promoting projects under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases. The Government of India has also set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Scientfiic Adviser on impacts of Climate Change to identify the impacts of anthropogenic Climate Change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic Climate Change impacts. The composition of the Expert Committee included eminent scientists and representatives of concerned Ministries and Departments.